

# SC!

# SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE

## IN THIS ISSUE



**PROPOSED  
BANK CLOSURE**  
VIEWS OF LOCAL  
RESIDENTS  
P3



**A BRIDGE  
TOO FAR ...**  
BRIDGE DEBATE:  
PROS AND CONS  
P16-17



**VILLAGE  
TRAVELS**  
THE WONDERFUL  
TRIPS ON OFFER  
P29

EVERY MAN  
REMEMBERED

AUG 4 - 100 YEARS

AUG / SEP 2014

# CARPET FITTER

Fitted Carpets & Vinyl Specialist  
Underlays & Fixings Supplied  
Re-Adaptions & Restretches  
Measuring, Estimating & Planning  
Carpets ★ Vinyl ★ Amtico ★ Kamdean  
**25 YEARS EXPERIENCE**  
**MICHAEL HODGSON**  
TEL: 0118 901 1777 / MOB: 07841 586003

## Caversham Aerial Services

TV Aerials Supplied and Fitted.  
Poor Reception? Old aerials?  
Can't get the new digital channels?  
**Give us a call - We can help!**  
**Phone 0118 9673596**  
[www.caversham-aerials.co.uk](http://www.caversham-aerials.co.uk)

Freeview Freeview HD



We are a locally based  
**Catering Company**

specialising in quality cold finger and fork buffet food for every event, a birthday, wedding, anniversary, funeral or a business working lunch. We offer a bespoke and tailor-made service; our aim is to provide an excellent, friendly and professional service.

For further details please contact

**The Spinney Catering Company**

Tel: 0118 9722168

Email: [info@spinnycatering.co.uk](mailto:info@spinnycatering.co.uk)

Website: [www.spinneytating.co.uk](http://www.spinneytating.co.uk)



**elements;**  
KITCHENS • INTERIORS

Visit our stunning showroom:  
8b Portman Road, Reading RG30 1EA  
Tel 0118 959 9919  
[www.elementskitchens.co.uk](http://www.elementskitchens.co.uk)

Chiltern  
Beauty

## Outstanding Natural Beauty

Waxing, electrolysis, eyelash tinting,  
eyebrow shaping, make-up,  
Jessica manicures & pedicures,  
Aromatherapy facials.

**Tel: 0118 9723157**

Janet Copp I.H.B.C

9 Sedgefield Close, Sonning Common

[www.chilternbeauty.co.uk](http://www.chilternbeauty.co.uk)

## Property Consultants

Shops, Offices, Industrial, Investments  
Valuations, Rent Reviews, Lease Renewals

Highmoor  
Cross

George Chilvers and Nigel Price FRICS

**0118 947 4600**

[www.highmoorcross.co.uk](http://www.highmoorcross.co.uk)

## SONNING COMMON PRE-SCHOOL

GROVE ROAD  
SONNING COMMON  
0118 972 4760



We are a happy friendly pre-school  
welcoming children from 2 years  
6 months, to come and learn through  
play. We have a purpose built building  
& extensive play garden.

Morning sessions are 9.00am - 12.00pm  
Afternoon sessions are 12.00pm - 3.00pm



## Adam's Pest Control

Professional Pest Control in Sonning Common  
Rats, mice, rabbits, squirrels, moles, insects, foxes.

Available 7 days a week.

BPCA Qualified and Fully Insured



Call 0118 9723709 or 0784 9342690  
[www.adamspestcontrol.co.uk](http://www.adamspestcontrol.co.uk)

[www.sonningcommonmagazine.org](http://www.sonningcommonmagazine.org)

# FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Another bumper edition of 36 pages has just been handed over to our Graphic Designer!

It is full of articles which affect our daily lives in Sonning Common; from very local issues such as the closure of Nat West bank and the impact of planning decisions on the flower beds which enhance our village centre, to the entry for the Britain in Bloom competition. Then taking on the larger issues which may affect us; the possibility of a 3rd Bridge across the Thames; the likely impact of the lack of effective antibiotic treatments on our health; to a national event marking the start of the First World War.

The community news pages celebrate many local events and, of course, our regular contributions from Tom Fort and Zack Hawkes. A new and exciting feature is Village Travel - a non-profit organisation led by Andrea Golder, offering a wide range of holiday opportunities available to local individuals and family groups. I hope that many of you will be able to take up the offers?

The summer holidays are fast approaching, a busy but enjoyable time. Reactions to the new refreshed style of the magazine have been very positive and with luck will prompt you to engage and write an article by 1 September please?

Diana

**Diana Pearman** Editor

Email: [editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org)



## MEET THE TEAM ...



Christine Atkinson



Hannah Rice



Jo Stoves



Joan Grumman



Ros Varnes

## USEFUL CONTACTS:

**Chairman:** Geoff Adams  
1 Woodlands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9TD  
[chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org)  
Tel 0118 972 2134

**Diary dates:** Helen Barker  
[helen.barker@tesco.net](mailto:helen.barker@tesco.net) Tel 0118 972 1241

**Distribution:** Helen Gavin  
[distribution@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:distribution@sonningcommonmagazine.org)  
Tel 0118 972 4680

**Advertising:** John Pearman  
[advertising@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:advertising@sonningcommonmagazine.org)  
Tel 0118 972 2381

# HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 Community News
- 8 Notice Board
- 11 An Interview With
- 15 Life Changed Forever
- 16 In Focus
- 24 It's Your Village
- 27 Tom Fort
- 30 Parish News
- 32 Diary Dates

Design & Artwork: Kevin Taplin  
[tensevennine.com](http://tensevennine.com)  
[kevin@tensevennine.com](mailto:kevin@tensevennine.com)  
07887902376 / 0118 957 6929

Print: Rick Peedell  
Xplor Ltd  
[rick@xplor-pm.co.uk](mailto:rick@xplor-pm.co.uk)  
07766 254422 / 0118 9471955

Cover image: Christine Atkinson

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information printed in this magazine, the editor and the publisher cannot accept any responsibility for the consequences of errors that occur.

**SC** SONNING COMMON  
MAGAZINE

## 'POWER GROUP' AND THE DIANA AWARD



Chiltern Edge 'Power Group' was formed to take a stand against any type of bullying in the school. Although bullying is no more of an issue in our school than anywhere else, we take it very seriously here. Bullying can be physical, verbal, emotional, cyber, racist, sexual and homophobic, but it does not matter what form it takes: it will always be deliberately hurtful and repeated. It will always involve an imbalance of power - making it hard for those who are being bullied to defend themselves.

The group is run by pupil-led committees that have been developed by students from every year group and they have recently received a Diana Award for their contribution against bullying in their own school [www.diana-award.org.uk](http://www.diana-award.org.uk). The Diana Award is given to young people who inspire the lives of others.

Their achievements include delivering training to staff, representing the county at a conference, making important contributions to the school's behaviour policy, setting up a dedicated anti-bullying e-mail, running surveys, and

producing a student-friendly leaflet - soon to be translated into various languages, starting with Polish.

The success of our Chiltern Edge pupils as Anti-Bullying Champions is testimony to their hard work and enthusiasm. I am very proud of their success, and feel privileged to be able to work with such a dedicated and energetic group of young people. ●

**Anne House, Specialist Teacher, Chiltern Edge School**

## CHILTERN EDGE YEAR 11 PROM

After months of revision and the end of the exams the Year 11 students from Chiltern Edge enjoyed a well deserved evening of fun at their leaving prom.

A hard working team from the staff and parents association transformed the student canteen into a theme of black and white for the prom.

The boys and girls arrived in their finery on a slightly drizzly evening, but headmaster Daniel Sadler gallantly escorted every girl to the entrance with his umbrella.

They are all now 'resting' and awaiting their exam results later in August.

**Good luck to them all in the future! ●**



## AN 'INTERNATIONAL' SUMMER FAIR

Sonning Common Primary School's annual summer fair was held in June and started out a little bit damp!

But the mood and the sun shone through during the afternoon and ensured a great time was had by all. The theme was 'International' inspired by all the countries in the World Cup. A big thank you to all who came as all the funds went towards the Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) which is now being constructed during the summer in the school grounds. ●



## Thames Valley Gym merger

Sue Newton from the Thames Valley Gym has announced that they are to merge with the Tilehurst Gym Club to form 'Kennylands Gymnastics'. The merger will not affect the running of the club and all the classes will remain in place in both locations.



Rebecca Taylor from Tilehurst Gym Club will be running the new club with a team of coaches and is keen to continue the club's great reputation for producing success.

Rebecca started her own gymnastics career at Thames Valley in its previous life when it was known as The Dorian Centre. She is delighted to be able to take the club forward and realise her vision to provide a fun environment for all to enjoy.

For further information on gym classes and children's parties please contact her at [kennylands\\_gymnastics@hotmail.com](mailto:kennylands_gymnastics@hotmail.com) ●

## PRIMARY SCHOOL GETS ITS 'MUGA'

For the past two years Sonning Common Primary School, alongside its Parent Teacher Association, has been saving to fund a Multi-Use Games Area which is costing about £70,000.

This is really just a large playground, 40m by 20m, with a 3m high rebound fence surrounding the area. It can be used for PE lessons through the winter and has areas marked out for football, basketball, tennis and many other activities.

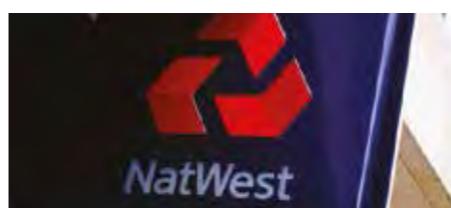
Chris Hirst - SCPS Headteacher said 'The area will be used as an extension of the infant school playground and will enable us

to develop our sports facilities, and hopefully a few sporting champions, for the future.

Hopefully we will be able to start tennis lessons at an after school club in September for our children which is a sport that we haven't been able to offer before. Construction starts as soon as we break up for the summer and should be ready for use at the start of term.' ●



## PROPOSED CLOSURE OF NATWEST BANK IN SONNING COMMON



Hannah Rice and Joan Grummant asked villagers using or passing the NatWest Bank in Sonning Common their views regarding the proposed closure of the branch on 29 August 2014.

Pat from Sonning Common Electrical thought, "It is going to affect a lot of people in the village because it is the only bank we have."

The NatWest press office states that: "The number of customers using this branch has dropped by nearly a third over the last few years as more and more of them use alternative ways of banking with us. This includes by telephone, in Post Offices, by app and online. The branch is open for 18 hours a week and

only 29 customers use it regularly, each week...Over our whole branch network there has been a 30% drop in branch transactions since 2010 as people do their banking when and where it is convenient for them." One gentleman we interviewed, John agreed with this statement as he said he does all his banking online.

Despite this, many are disappointed with the news of the closure and have signed an online petition against it. Many villagers highlighted the branch's convenience as it is near the centre of the village. Becky Godfrey said: "it's a really handy bank for me. I use it every single week". Rhona Ash said: "It is so convenient...part of the village really."

Jason Hawkes, who uses the branch for deposits said: "I use it for putting in cheques because I work at home. I will have to send my assistant into Reading or Henley." Heather said: "I am self-employed and it is very useful to pay in cheques, otherwise I would have to go into Henley"

In response NatWest stated they are ensuring that their customers will still have access to banking in the area. "We have an arrangement with the local Post Office, which is 0.4 miles away that allows our customers to withdraw cash, check balances and pay bills free of charge. We also recently announced that in the coming months, our customers will be able to deposit both cash and cheques in any of the Post Office's 11,500 branches across the UK. We're leaving the ATM behind so customers can get cash, check their balance and transfer money 24 hours a day."

Although the online petition against the closure has had over 900 signatures and is still available to sign, many are sceptical and doubtful that it will make an impact. Julie, a resident, said: "It (the closure) is going to happen anyway no matter what anyone says."

It is clear that this is a very emotive issue and as a village we eagerly await the results of the petition, whether successful or not. ●

## THE SONNING COMMON SOCIETY FACES AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE



Sibella Bonham-Carter  
former president of Sonning Common Society

Since its formation in 1965 the Sonning Common Society has worked hard to fulfil its aims. Not all endeavours were successful but many were, such as tree planting, walks, discussions and talks, publication of two separate village postcards, walking leaflets and the Sonning Common Guide.

However, some of the Society's activities have been absorbed or taken over and by September the society, understaffed for some time, will be reduced to just two members. Chairman, Mark Richards, will not be available on a regular basis - and it will be difficult for the Society to function.

A Secretary, Treasurer and Guide Editor are needed.

Please think seriously about helping to save the Society from closing after nearly 50 years. ●

Contact Mark Richards.  
Call on 972 3939 or email  
mark.richards62@btinternet.com

## POSITIVE FEEDBACK FOR SONNING COMMON HEALTH CENTRE

Back in February of this year, Sonning Common Health Centre in Wood Lane asked patients to complete a questionnaire on the surgery and the standard of care they receive.

The questionnaire consisted of some 20 questions, designed by the practice and supported by the Patient Participation Group, aimed at obtaining patients' opinions of the service they receive and suggestions for improvements. Questions ranged from, "How would you rate the waiting room?" to on-line appointment booking and whether patients were able to see their preferred doctor or nurse.

A total of 416 completed questionnaires were returned and much of the feedback was very positive, praising the practice for its high standard of service. A full report has now been compiled together with an action plan which includes:-

- Introduction of a text message appointment reminder service
- Information display boards in waiting room
- A carers' board giving up to date and specific information
- Review of car parking facilities - signage and lighting
- Improving access in all areas

The full report is available on [www.sonningcommonhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.sonningcommonhealthcentre.co.uk). Those of us who are registered with the health centre are very well served by doctors, nurses and practice staff but also by the members of the Patient Participation Group who work with the practice on our behalf. ●

Jo Stoves

## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2014

**It's not too late to sign up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge!** This year is 'Mythical Maze' - so you can expect lots of mythical mystery storybooks in the library. Staff & volunteers at Sonning Common Library are running special storytimes every Saturday in August at 10am, to make this a particularly mythical summer.

We also have an extra-special storytime on Wednesday 6 August, with visitors from an Oxford Museum leading the event - check with the library to see if there are any spaces left.

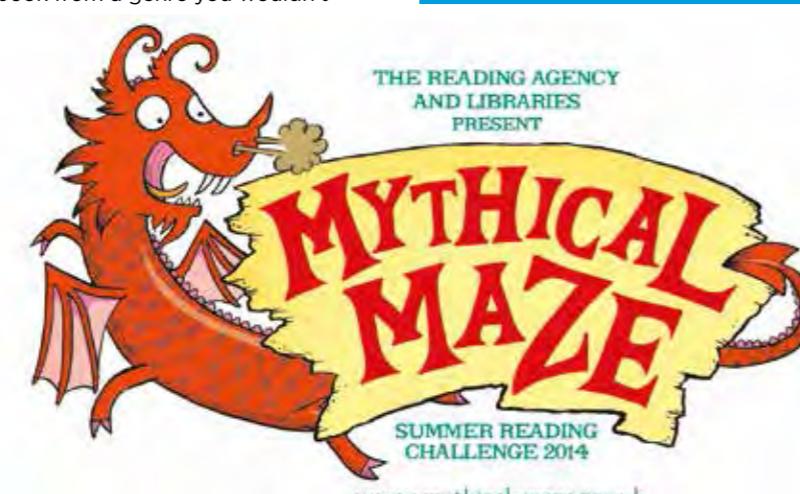
This year we're again asking teenagers and adults to challenge themselves too - read a book from a genre you wouldn't

normally choose, or write a review for a favourite book. (All entries will be put into a prize draw to win free days out). ●

Rosemary Dunstan  
Manager Sonning Common Library

### VOLUNTEERS IN THE LIBRARY

Library staff have been busy training volunteers since the beginning of June, ready for the start of the new 'system' on Monday 18 August. So when you come into the library after that date, please be gentle with the volunteers - they're still learning!



[www.mythical-maze.org.uk](http://www.mythical-maze.org.uk)



## Cash boost for the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance

**A cheque for a fantastic £1000 was presented to the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance (TVACAA) representative John Downey by Caroline Conway from the 'On Your Bike' committee.**

This year saw a massive 520 cyclists take part. The main organiser of the event is Sonning Common resident Penny Snowden. The event has raised well over £25,000 for charity in the seven years it has been running.

Two other cheques for £1000 each have also been presented to the Sue Ryder hospice at Nettlebed and to Sonning Common Primary School.

Next years date for On Your Bike is Sunday 26th April 2015. ●

## INSPIRATIONAL MUSICAL DIRECTOR SAYS GOODBYE

South Chiltern Choral Society said a sad goodbye to its conductor and musical director of 47 years Gwyn Arch in a Very Special Summer Concert on 5 July at the Concert Hall in Reading. It was an evening full of emotion and reflected the love and esteem in which he is held.

The programme for South Chiltern consisted of Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo by Michael Flanders and Joseph Horowitz as well as numbers by George and Ira Gershwin and Cole Porter. South Chiltern shared the concert with Gwyn's other choir, Reading Male Voice, who sang a wide ranging selection of music including spirituals, arias, and African music. Both choirs also sang pieces by Randall Thompson to words by Robert Frost and then joined together to sing a surprise version of Thank You For the Music with words specially written by Allen Appleby. The words cleverly reflected Gwyn's love of a good joke, his wonderful arrangements and his ability to instil a love for music in others. The commitment and real feeling from the choirs was a fitting tribute to a

hugely respected man.

Gwyn inherited a choir with 52 members when he was first appointed in 1965. It is a tribute to his drive, musical acumen and lively personality that the choir now has over 100 enthusiastic members. Under his guiding hand it has enjoyed singing a hugely varied repertoire to a high standard and it also supports the musical development of young people in our local schools and the commissioning of new works by living composers. He will be sorely missed by all and we wish him well. Thank you, Gwyn, you will be missed. ●

Joan Grumant



## NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

During the last two months the NDP Working Party has organised and led many meetings with residents, landowners/developers, officials from SODC, SOHA (South Oxfordshire Housing Association) and Chilterns Conservation Board. At the time of writing we have asked our neighbouring Parish Councils for the opportunity to talk with them about our progress so far.

The residents' meetings held in June, were arranged so that residents living adjacent to sites put forward for housing developments could discuss our site proposals with us and tell us their concerns and suggestions. This was done around tables in small groups with the proposals, maps and drawings given to each resident.

Discussions were positive and residents were asked to complete and return feedback forms itemising each separate element of the site proposal under three basic headings - Agree, Disagree, Alternative - with other spaces for comment and opinion.

These feedback forms have now been analysed and recorded.

This information will be evaluated and incorporated, where possible, into our final proposals.

At the time of writing we have had separate meetings for SON#15a - Chiltern Edge Top, SON#9 - Lea Meadow, SON#7 - Hagpits and SON#6 - Kennylands Infill.

During July we will have met with representatives of the owners of SON#1, #2, #3 (Old Copse Field, Bishopswood Middle Field and Memorial Hall Field) to discuss our proposals for these sites - which are for:

- recreation and community/sports hall development on SON 3
- housing on SON 2
- some amenity green space use on SON 1

Meanwhile the Working Party is working on a first draft of the NDP. ●

Barrie Greenwood,  
Chairman, Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan

**Moores Painting, Decorating & General Maintenance Services**

**Spruce up your Home & Garden!**  
5% Discount when you quote: SCMAG

\*Interior/Exterior Painting, Glossing, Staining. \*Wall Paper Removal/Hanging. \*Damaged Walls/Woodwork Repair.  
\*Repair & Maintenance of Internal/External Fixtures & Fittings.  
\*Fences/Sheds Erection & Repair. \*Fence, Shed, Decking – Cleaning, Staining, Painting. \*Garden Clearance/Maintenance

**We invite you to contact us for a free, no obligation quotation.**

Call: 0189 722002 or 07595 906940  
Email: [info@moorespds.co.uk](mailto:info@moorespds.co.uk) Web: [www.moorespds.co.uk](http://www.moorespds.co.uk)

  
**Oak Grove Garden Services**

LANDSCAPING (HARD OR SOFT)  
FENCING • TURFING • PATIOS • HEDGING  
WATER FEATURES

**James Watkins**

'Oak Grove' • 13 Grove Road • Sonning Common • Berkshire RG4 9RH  
Telephone: 0118 972 2659

  
**Robin James**  
**OPTICIANS**

- Comprehensive eye examinations
- Full contact lens service
- Free specs for children
- Extensive range of designer frames
- Main agent for Zeiss and Rodenstock lenses
- Free parking

**0118 947 2099**  
[www.robinjames.co.uk](http://www.robinjames.co.uk)  
44 Church St, Caversham, Reading (opposite Waitrose)

**BONNER LOCKSMITHS**  
**INSURANCE APPROVED**

**DOORS & WINDOW LOCKS SUPPLIED & FITTED, CHANGED OR UPGRADED (BS3621)**  
**DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL PREMISES**  
**DIGITAL LOCKS • BARS**

**FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE**

ALL AREAS COVERED

**01491 680216**  **CRESTWELL HOUSE**  
Beech Lane, RG8 0PX • Woodcote Nr. Reading  
PROPRIETOR: S. J. BONNER



**GIRL POWER**  
**Female Electrician**  
*Local - Honest – Reliable*  
Please call Jess  
**07870 507749**  
for all your  
electrical needs



**PEPPARD**  
BUILDING SUPPLIES

**FIRST CHOICE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL**

**FREE LOCAL DELIVERY**



- Competitive Trade Pricing
- Bulk Bags
- Specialist Insulation Stockists
- Indian Sandstone
- Bricks/Blocks /Aggregates
- Trade Shop
- Plenty of Parking
- Web Offers!

Call **0118 972 2028** / Sat Nav **RG4 8XA**  
Visit [www.peppardbuildingsupplies.com](http://www.peppardbuildingsupplies.com)

\*Terms and Conditions apply

**Wisepower**  
**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS LIMITED**

T. 07810 798798 / 0118 972 2767  
E. [wisepower@btinternet.com](mailto:wisepower@btinternet.com)  
W. [wisepowerelectricalcontractors.co.uk](http://wisepowerelectricalcontractors.co.uk)  
4 Mullens Terrace, Chazey Heath, Reading, RG4 9ES

*Customer Satisfaction our Priority*


Oxfordshire Schools and NHS Trust Approved Contractor



**Byways Dental Practice**  
*Quality Care      Dedicated Team*

Byways provides friendly and professional dental care and is located in the tranquil surroundings of beautiful Checkendon village. Our services include:

- + All aspects of general dentistry
- + Teeth whitening and cosmetics
- + NHS for children & anyone in full-time education
- + Affordable payment plans
- + Flexible opening times
- + Ample free car parking

To book an appointment or for more information call us on 01491 680412 or email [info@bywaysdental.co.uk](mailto:info@bywaysdental.co.uk)

Main St, Checkendon, RG8 0SP   Tel 01491 680412

**Computer Problems?**  
Is your PC outdated, misbehaving, virus infected?

Fault Diagnosis, Maintenance & Upgrades, Data Recovery & Migration, Virus Cleaning, Networking, Broadband and much more.

**Call Robin Piercy**  
at Influential Computers on  
**01491 680036**  
or visit [www.influentialcomputers.com](http://www.influentialcomputers.com)

**GRAHAMS** Painting & Decorating – Fascias & Soffits  
**MAINTENANCE** Door & Window Fitting – Plumbing

Fitted Bathrooms – Floor & Wall Tiling – Fencing & Decking  
Wood & Laminate Flooring – Sheds Supplied & Fitted  
Garden Maintenance – Guttering & Flat Roofing etc...

**FREE ESTIMATES 0118 972 3114**



  
**JL COX**  
**Plastering**  
• Ceilings • Walls • Dry Lining • Rendering  
• Pebble Dashing • Patch Repair Work

**Call Jamie on 01189 242861**  
Or Email : [jcox.plastering@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jcox.plastering@hotmail.co.uk)

**Kidbys**  
**Sheds & Timber Buildings**  
**Sheds & Timber Buildings**

**Tel: 0118 972 33 80**  
Kidbys Yard, 28 Kennylands Road  
Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9JT  
[www.kidbys.co.uk](http://www.kidbys.co.uk) Fax: 0118 972 10 02

**CURTAINS, BLINDS, PELMETS, TIE BACKS ETC.**  
**ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES**  
**CALL CAROLINE ON 0118 954 2448 OR 0781 561 0007**



**Time 4 Pilates**  
Want to look and feel great!!  
Try Pilates – controlled, yet gentle exercise

Classes in Sonning Common area  
Including Ante and Post Natal

Mondays / Tuesdays / Thursdays  
Beginners and Intermediates  
Max 12 in Group (6 in Pregnancy classes)  
Private sessions also available

**Christine Brook** – Member of Body Control Pilates Association  
Ring 07789 717017 or email [chris@time4pilates.co.uk](mailto:chris@time4pilates.co.uk)  
Website at [www.time4pilates.co.uk](http://www.time4pilates.co.uk)

**VILLAGE BARBERS**  
**0118 972 3930**  
**24 PEPPARD ROAD SONNING COMMON**

**£1 OFF WITH THIS VOUCHER**  
**CHILDREN'S PLAYROOM**

CUT - £12 ONE GRADE - £9 TWO GRADES - £10  
CUT & BLOW DRY - £13 CHILDREN UNDER 10 - £9  
CHILDREN 10 TO 16 - £11  
SENIOR CITIZEN - £8 RESTYLE - £15



## Antique & Collectable Fair

**Thursday 4 September 2014**  
 Caversham Heath Golf Club, Mapledurham RG4 7UT  
 50p entrance fee / Stallholder table cost £20  
 50% donated to Helen and Douglas House charity  
 abantiquo1900@gmail.com Tel. 00 44 (0)7873 226689  
 Twitter: @abantiquo\_ Facebook: Ab antiquo



## Sponsored Walk for Macmillan Nurses Cancer care

Instead of Macmillan Coffee Mornings  
**Rural sponsored walk 5 miles**  
 Tea/coffee and cake in Village Hall afterwards  
 Look out for posters, article in Henley Standard in September  
 Contact Linda Webb



## Friendly Fridays in the Library

Everyone welcome from 10am

**SCRABBLE** 1 & 8 AUGUST  
 5 & 12 SEPTEMBER

**'KNIT & NATTER', 'CROCHET & CHAT',  
 AND 'SEW & SO'** 15, 22 & 29 AUGUST  
 19 & 26 SEPTEMBER

OR just come for coffee/tea and a chat!

Chiltern Players present a night of entertainment to celebrate the life of Jeni Titchener who died in April.

### AN EVENING FOR JENI

Friday 5 September at 8pm  
 Peppard Memorial Hall



Featuring excerpts from plays, comedy turns and monologues from productions in which Jeni was involved from the director's chair, onstage, backstage or front-of-house. **The evening is free - collection for the RNLI**, Jeni's favourite charity.

### VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS

Sonning Common Village Hall

WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER  
 10.30am to 12 noon

This event is open to everyone in the village

ALL WELCOME & FREE ENTRY

Coffee/Tea & Biscuits (small donation appreciated)

Come and meet people, bring along friends, chat or just relax.

Book and Bric-a-brac Table

Hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute

Raising funds for Club SC



### PEPPARD BOWLS CLUB FIXTURES

#### August

Tues 5th	Peppard v. Henley Gentlemen (Home match)	2.30pm
Sun 10th	Clarrie Cook (Pairs - Club competition)	2pm
Sun 17th	Peppard v. Milton Hill (Home match)	2.30pm
Wed 20th	Peppard v. Suttons (Home match)	2.30pm
Sat 30th	Peppard v. AWRE (Home match)	2.30pm

#### September

Wed 3rd	Oxfordshire v. Berkshire at Peppard BC	2pm
Sat 6th	Dick Bishop Cup - Club competition	2pm
Sun 14th	President v. Captain	2.30pm
Tue 16th	AGM	7 for 7.30pm

## SONNING COMMON VILLAGE CRICKET CLUB NEWS

A mixed season so far! Highlights include:

- + the annual tour to Bridport
- + the performance of 4 Sonning Common teenagers against Swyncombe:

Markland Tidswell scored 75, Luke Pitson, Tom Mee and Michael Barker took 8 wickets between them.

All welcome to Sunday afternoon friendlies especially young players

#### Contact

Howard Cooke: howard337@btinternet.com  
 Nick Pitson: welsh364@hotmail.co.uk

## AUTUMN SHOW

Saturday 6 September 2014

2.30pm - 4.30pm  
 at Chiltern Edge School,  
 Reade's Lane, Sonning Common

#### Show Classes:

Flowers, Floral Art, Fruit & Vegetables, Domestic, Handicraft, Childrens Classes, & Photography

Refreshments, Plant Stall, Tombola & Raffle

Everybody is very welcome to attend

#### New Members Welcome

**FREE ADMISSION**

## LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club

### WE NEED NEW MEMBERS

As a Club we meet once a month, informally, to discuss and agree Club activities

Come and meet us on **Monday 11th Aug** at Goring Social Club at 8pm

Happy to talk, without commitment or phone  
 Derek Robinson, Community Service Chairman  
 01491 872857

Alan Wright, Secretary 0845 833 9837  
 Jon Solman, PRO 0118 947 1970



## HEALTH WALKS

Health Walks continue through the summer with new routes and starting places. For fitness, it's friendly, fun and free! Walks are for everyone and are graded according to age and ability.

Contact us for advice about which one is best for you at [www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk](http://www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk)  
 Timetables available from Health Centre, library and Herb Farm. Come and join us!

## Open Days 2014

### Save the Dates!

Open evening  
 24 September

Open mornings  
 30 September & 1 October

### Chiltern Edge School

We support unpaid carers in your local community



Registered charity no. 1042708

## Carers – we're here to help

- Expert face-to-face support
- Information & Advice
- Help with Benefit Appeals and Tribunals
- Support for parent carers
- Young Carers' Project
- Help with complex form-filling

Call 01235 510 212

Opening hours: Tuesday – Thursday 10am – 4pm, email [carers@svcarers.org.uk](mailto:carers@svcarers.org.uk)  
 South & Vale Carers Centre 5 Lydalls Road, Didcot OX11 7HX

[www.svcarers.org.uk](http://www.svcarers.org.uk)

## National Trust at Greys Court

### Big Harvest event 20 and 21 September

with "Love Henley" small food and craft event  
 Open from 10-5pm admission prices apply.



**Call My Driver**  
**Friendly & Reliable**  
**Taxi Service**  
 Based in Sonning Common  
**07796 688477**

**T.C. FULLER PLUMBING & HEATING**

- Installation • Maintenance • Service • Repair
- Boiler replacement, heating system upgrade & adaptations, power flush.
- Hot water cylinder replacement.
- All plumbing work undertaken.
- Bath/Shower rooms, water softeners-salt supplied.
- No call out charge • Free estimates • Fully insured

Tel: 0118 9724097  
 Mob: 07800 914 880

 225032

**Shaun Guard**  
**TV AERIAL SERVICES**

- Poor Reception Solved - Aerials repaired & supplied
- TVs - Hung on your wall for you. Also supplied & tuned
- Extra TV Points - For aerial and Sky (In HD!)
- Sky TV - Also Foreign Language TV

Call Henley-on Thames 01491 699114

A part of  OXFORD AERIALS



Whatever your electrical needs are, HHP Electrical can help...

With electrical services ranging from:

- Lighting / Power upgrades
- Full / Part Rewires
- Fault finding and repairs
- Full Electrical Safety/ Landlords Inspections

All to suit the exact requirements of our clients.

0118 9724108 - [www.hhpelectrical.co.uk](http://www.hhpelectrical.co.uk)  
[info@hhpelectrical.co.uk](mailto:info@hhpelectrical.co.uk)

**Family Hairdressing**  
**any age & any style**

.....and all in the comfort of your own home.....

**Ring Maureen on**  
**0118 972 1074**

Providing a professional and friendly legal service to the local community and beyond for over 80 years!

- Residential & Commercial Conveyancing
- Landlord & Tenant
- Company & Commercial
- Directors & Shares
- Employment
- Wills & Probate
- Trusts & Tax
- Powers of Attorney
- Divorce & Family
- Mediation
- Disputes
- Debt Collection
- Notarial Services

Goring: 01491 879100  
 Pangbourne: 0118 9842266  
 info@richardwilsonlong.co.uk  
 www.richardwilsonlong.co.uk



**DK Builders**  
 Daren Kilroy



BRICKLAYING, EXTENSIONS,  
 GARDEN WALLS, PATIOS ETC

OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

CAVERSHAM, READING 07951736745  
 0118 3759407



**gunningplumbing.com**  
 • plumbing • heating • gas •

**ALL DOMESTIC PLUMBING, HEATING, & GAS WORK**  
**INSTALLATIONS, REPAIRS, & EMERGENCIES**

**CAVERSHAM BASED**  
**GAS SAFE REGISTERED ENGINEER**  
 SERVING READING & THE SURROUNDING AREA

CALL ANDREW ON 07815 304 931  
[www.gunningplumbing.com](http://www.gunningplumbing.com)



# MARGARET AND ELAINE HAPPY HERE AND NOW

By ROS VARNES

Margaret Moola and Elaine Williams, Sonning Common's two leading musical ladies, may be in tune with each other most of the time but when the sparks fly it's fun to watch!

Seeing the pair of them spark off one another is one of many draws for the 70 members of Nottakwire - the village's friendly and successful community singing group.

Friendship, enjoyment of singing, performing and contributing to the community are among the other reasons why Nottakwire has become such a force for good in the village.

When Margaret and Elaine decided to form Nottakwire in March 2010, they planned for a singing group that was all-inclusive and different from the usual expectation of 'a choir'.

However, their expertise and dedication together with the enthusiasm and commitment of the members has ensured the group's technical and musical abilities have steadily improved to reach what many would call a high standard.

Over the last four years Nottakwire has raised more than £8,000, the majority of which has gone to local causes and organisations, such as the village's pre-school, lunch club, youth club, Scouts, health centre, First Responders, FISH, Sonning Common Magazine and The Village Gardeners.

When speaking with Margaret and Elaine you get a strong sense of their commitment - to music, to their singing group, to Sonning Common and to all that they are achieving together in the community.

Friends and colleagues for 29 years, their lives have always been filled with



Margaret Moola (left) and Elaine Williams, directors of Nottakwire

music and they are both former music teachers. During the latter part of their careers in education, they were living and working in London, which is how they met.

Having decided to leave London, they began house-hunting. Margaret's daughter, who lives in Henley, said she had heard that Sonning Common was, "rather a nice place", so they came to have a look, liked what they saw, so decided to settle here and share a house.

The stage at the village hall is a far cry from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and York Minster Cathedral, two of the places where their previous musical careers took them, and they appear to have found happiness and fulfillment in Sonning Common, directing Nottakwire.

Margaret said: "When we moved here 10 years ago, I had a feeling that something was going to happen in my life although I didn't know what it was. I know now it was the singing group.

"We saw a gap in Sonning Common for an amateur, community singing group and we thought that we would form one. We planted a seed, the seed grew and we have responded to that.

"We have received so many messages from people over the years who say, 'Without Nottakwire, I don't know what I would do - it's made such a difference to my life!'"

"That makes us feel seriously humble," said Elaine. "It's an incredible feeling. The group has enriched the lives of many associated with it. Singing gives everyone a voice and your voice is who you are." ●

New singers continue to join Nottakwire, and, according to Margaret and Elaine, slot right in because everyone is so friendly. To find out more about Nottakwire, contact Margaret and Elaine on 0118 972 1248. Email: [margaret.moola@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.moola@btinternet.com)

# Not all Estate Agents are the same ... *but don't just take our word for it ...*



*"I found everyone at Bridges professional. They were very respectful of our difficult situation and were always consistent in giving feedback. From my interaction with the staff I could tell that their aim is to provide an excellent service and therefore I would highly recommend them."*

MS J RITCHIE  
Kidmore Lane, Sonning Common



*"I had originally instructed another agent without success and I decided to go with Bridges due to their personal service. And I was not disappointed – the entire team were proactive not only in getting potential buyers through the door but in driving the sale through to the end."*

MS A BROWN  
Baskerville Road, Sonning Common



*"Thank you all for the excellent service that we received during the sale of our property. You handled the matter very efficiently and your staff were helpful and friendly. We would gladly recommend your services to anyone wishing to buy or sell a house in Sonning Common."*

MR & MRS B ASHLEY  
Widmore Lane, Sonning Common



*"Bridges were very professional throughout the sales process which was a marked difference to some of the competition. I would recommend Andy & his team to anybody looking to sell in the Sonning Common area."*

MR A HARDING  
Kennylands Road, Sonning Common

1 Church Road Caversham Reading RG4 7AA

0118 946 2121

[www.bridgesproperty.co.uk](http://www.bridgesproperty.co.uk)

**BRIDGES**  
Independent Estate Agents

# NOTTAKWIRE THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

Photo: Peter Rickard



**The feedback from visitors to Nottakwire's summer fund-raising concerts on Friday and Saturday 27 and 28 June, confirmed both concerts a roaring success.**

A mixed programme of four sets, comprising "Songs of WW1," a medley of best known songs from "Les Miserables", Spirituals and Abba which was followed by a "Lucky Programme Number draw" with prizes generously donated by local businesses. The concerts ended with a finale of "The Rhythm of Life."

Soloists were: Cliff Pryke, Claire Holland, Peter Dayton, Chrissie Philips-Tilbury and Susan Rusman. The audience was enthusiastic - and sang along heartily to all the choruses for the WW1 songs. A team of volunteers acted as stewards and provided refreshments. Thanks go to: Sheila Walker, Sarah Hall, Becky Jenkins, Carol Viney, Adam Negus, Jill Greenwood, David McKnight, Peter Rickards, Alan Gibbon and David Rusman. We are truly indebted to them for their generous support. Beautiful flower arrangements were made by Sue Hedges. Sound and staging was by Hugh Legh: HDL Audio Visual Services and filming on Saturday by Jason Moola: Crouching Mole Films. In due course both a CD and DVD will be produced.

We wish to thank both of our fantastic audiences, not only for being so receptive but also for their generosity. Proceeds from ticket sales and donations totalled £1200.

Nottakwire presented cheques to the following organisations in the Village Hall on Friday 18 July: Sonning Common Health Centre; Lunch Club; Club SC; Scouts and Village Gardeners.

Our hearty thanks go to each and every one who was involved with the success of this occasion - singers, helpers, audiences, local businesses and professional services.

Our Christmas Concert Dates are: Friday 12 and Saturday 13 December. Do make a note in your diary now! We'd love to see you. ●

**Margaret Moola and Elaine Williams**  
**NOTTAKWIRE DIRECTORS**



## A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY

"Nottakwire membership has made a difference for me on a number of levels. It's almost like joining an extended family – everyone is so friendly, helpful and happy to talk, you are made to feel so welcome. Through the varied selection of songs that we sing you can also experience a number of different emotions and memories such as childhood, teenage years, those 'swinging sixties' and many others, including maybe some of those memories that have lain dormant for a while. Sharing them in song with others is really special and often very uplifting. Sometimes we are asked to learn the words by heart for a song and sing without our sheets – no bad thing when you get to a certain age!!

The members of Nottakwire owe all of this to the two very inspirational people Margaret and Elaine who originally formed this choir and continue to provide us with this wonderful opportunity."

Rosemary Edginton

## Red Kite Electrical



Top quality electrical & Solar PV installations  
Now back working in Sonning Common and the South Chilterns



sparks@redkiteelectrical.co.uk  
www.redkiteelectrical.co.uk  
0118 907 1834  
0788 273 7402



## WESTWOOD MASSAGE AND BEAUTY

Facials / Manicure / Pedicure / Eyebrow and Eyelash tinting / Waxing / Swedish Massage / Hot Stone Massage / Aromatherapy Massage / Indian Head Massage

Competitive prices, special offers and gift vouchers  
Mobile appointments also available

Westwood House, Hillcrest Lane, Peppard Common, RG9 5JF

[westwoodmassage@hotmail.com](mailto:westwoodmassage@hotmail.com)

or call Bethan on 07921 458601

[www.westwoodmassage.co.uk](http://www.westwoodmassage.co.uk)

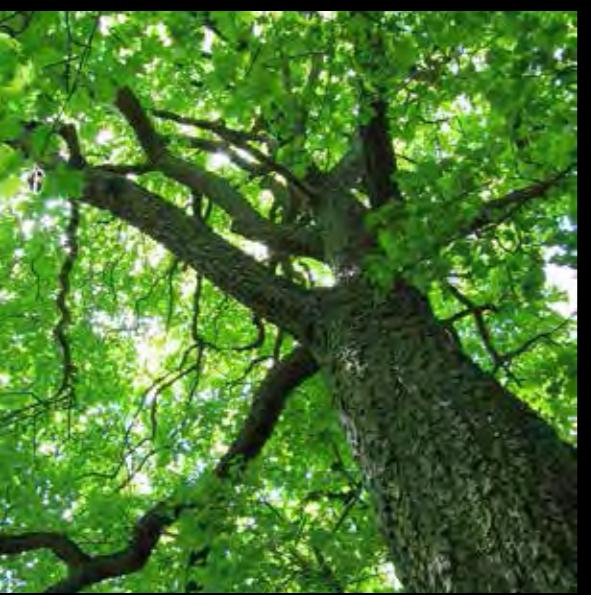
## HEIGHTS

### Tree Care



- All Aspects of Tree Work
- Hedge Cutting
- Private and Commercial

Fully Qualified Professionals  
£5 Million Public Liability Insurance  
Laurence Williams  
Phone: 0118 9484274  
Mobile: 07813 586 735  
Email: [info@heightstreecare.co.uk](mailto:info@heightstreecare.co.uk)  
Web Site: [www.heightstreecare.co.uk](http://www.heightstreecare.co.uk)



**Jeffreys Consultancy Services Ltd.**  
Accountancy Services

**CIMA**  
PRACTISING CERTIFIED ACCOUNTANT

An Accountant That Will Save You Time & Paper Work

Excellent customer service & free initial consultation

- Self-Assessments
- Corporation Tax Returns
- Business Advice
- Accounts

Call: 0118 9722611  
Email: [Keith.Jeffreys@jcslimited.co.uk](mailto:Keith.Jeffreys@jcslimited.co.uk)

## CERAMIC WALL & FLOOR TILING

Adhesive / Grout / Trims Supplied  
Floor Levelling & Plastering  
Free Estimates & Advice

Call Mick 0118 901 1777 / Mobile: 07841 586003



**Kennylands Gymnastics** (formally Thames Valley Gymnastics Club) offer a range of classes for boys and girls of all ages. Classes cater for preschool, recreation, freestyle gymnastics as well as competitive gymnastics for those who express the talent and desire. Parties are also available on weekends and we even provide an opportunity for adults who wish to have a go themselves.

Contact us: Kennylands Gymnastics  
Bird Wood Court, Sonning Common, Oxon, RG4 9RF  
T: 0118 9724 401 / 07846 185 905  
E: [kennylandsgymnastics@hotmail.com](mailto:kennylandsgymnastics@hotmail.com)



[www.kennylandsgymnastics.com](http://www.kennylandsgymnastics.com)

## Stafford & Son

Local Garden & Building Maintenance Services



Andrew Stafford  
Phone: 01491 642 191  
Mob: 07899 980 137

Offering services in all aspects of garden and grounds maintenance, be it large or small, including hedge and tree work.

Fencing, landscaping, pressure washing and general ground works.

Interior and exterior building maintenance, including gutter repairs / clearing and handy man services.

## Graham Blake

### soft furnishing

- Loose Covers
- Curtains
- Re-upholstery
- Carpets
- Conservatory Blinds
- Quilted Bedspreads
- Tracks & Poles
- Plantation Shutters

**TEN YEAR GUARANTEE**  
For personal, helpful service, please telephone  
**01844 261 769**  
07802 213 381  
[www.grahamblake.com](http://www.grahamblake.com)  
Established Family Business

# IT WAS A GLOBAL STRUGGLE ... LIFE CHANGED FOREVER NOTHING WAS EVER THE SAME AGAIN

By DIANA PEARMAN



In August 2014 the world will mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. The First World War reached out and touched almost everyone's life in some way or other...

My family's story is one that will be replicated by many. My grandfather born into a different world in 1883 was the fifth son of William and Ada Langford; one of ten children, seven of whom survived to adulthood. Apprenticed as a bookbinder he worked in leather, engraving the book covers with inlaid gold (one of his books went down with the Titanic!). Arthur married Eva Dye, a compositor, in 1910 at the age of 27 and they lived off the Old Kent Road in south east London. My father William was born in 1911.

In 1915 Grandad joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and as Private Langford was sent to Ireland during the 1916 'troubles'. At the Easter rising he was issued with a truncheon! Subsequently he was sent to France, his corps was attached to the Portuguese Expeditionary force and spent some time in Belgium. A certificate supplying the date 10 April 1919 suggests that he was demobbed on that date.

No-one ever spoke of his war experiences and the tiny pieces of information above have been gleaned from artefacts left behind. It is fascinating to speculate

why these pieces were kept by my Grandmother who died in 1971, surviving him by 12 years. This secrecy is a familiar story, one that many families acknowledged. It is assumed that the horrors of the experience were too dreadful to recount. Not surprisingly perhaps, given that 21 million people died in WW1 and 20,000 in one day at the Somme. My family was one of the lucky ones whose Dad survived.

The war is slipping inexorably beyond the fringes of living memory and, as the Centenary of 1914-18 approaches, the Royal British Legion is launching a nationwide project Every Man and Woman Remembered. Families are invited to honour every one of their ancestors who died in WW1 [www.everymanremembered.org](http://www.everymanremembered.org)

This greatest collective ACT OF REMEMBRANCE forms part of the special WW1 centenary commemorations. ●

VISIT THIS LOCAL EXHIBITION  
Bodleian Library, Oxford  
The Great War  
12 June to 2 November 2014  
FREE ENTRY



# A bridge too far!

By JOHN PEARMAN



**You may be old enough to remember the film which tells the story of the failure of Operation Market Garden during World War II, an attempt to break through German lines and seize several bridges in the occupied Netherlands, including one at Arnhem, to outflank German defenses.**

The film's title is based on an unconfirmed comment attributed to a senior British Officer who, before the battle, told Field Marshall Montgomery, who had planned the operation... 'I think we may be going a bridge too far.'

That same comment would be applied by some to the current debate that's divided opinion in Berkshire and Oxfordshire for more than 50 years and has been re-ignited following the traffic chaos caused by the closure of Sonning Bridge for six weeks earlier this year, due to flooding coinciding with the long-term closure of Whitchurch Toll Bridge for refurbishment.

The question is, should there be a third bridge over the River Thames in Reading to ease traffic congestion? There's support for the plan in Reading but communities north of the river in South Oxfordshire aren't so convinced.

In the last issue of the magazine we gave a brief account of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall which focused on the issue of a possible third vehicle crossing over the Thames. At that time we

acknowledged that the topic was a complex one and worthy of more consideration. In this issue we are giving more space to the various pros and cons which have been aired, discussed and published during the last few months and particularly the view of our own Parish Council.

Things have moved on since then with a recent 'summit' meeting held at Westminster attended by both local and national politicians from those areas, which would be most affected by such a scheme. The meeting, hosted by Henley MP John Howell and Reading East MP Rob Wilson, was attended by the Home Secretary and Maidenhead MP Theresa May.

The meeting agreed that a traffic study should be carried out into congestion in and around Henley to see if a third bridge over the Thames at Reading is really needed and the impact such a bridge would have on traffic flows in the surrounding areas.

Reading, Wokingham and Maidenhead borough councils support a new crossing, with an estimated cost of £100 million, while Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire District Council are very concerned about the extra traffic it would create north of the river.

The 'Third Bridge' issue has been rumbling on for many years, anecdotal evidence suggests that the issue was first raised at a Reading Borough Council meeting back in the early 1930s. Needless to say Reading Borough Council are very much in favour

of a third Thames bridge, to the East of Reading, and argue that the communities north of the river stand to benefit from a new Thames crossing as much of that as much as those who live south of the Thames.

Councillor Tony Page, deputy leader of Reading Borough Council, makes the case that a 'managed' crossing, which would moderate and control traffic flow, is the best option for drivers tired of congestion and delays. A crossing designed and managed alongside Caversham and Reading bridges could provide for a local distributor road providing for much faster journey times and be part of a wider plan for a park and ride system for Reading without the need for an extended road network. A new bridge would benefit the thousands of people from South Oxfordshire who travel to (or through) Reading for employment, leisure and shopping on a daily basis.

However, the communities north of the river in South Oxfordshire seem less than impressed with these arguments. Their major concern being traffic, more traffic and even more traffic! ...and this on a mainly rural road infrastructure that was never designed or built for such traffic volumes.

Councillor David Bartholomew, the Oxfordshire County Councillor who represents Sonning Common and eight other parishes that surround Henley, is concerned that without the supporting infrastructure of new roads and road

improvements any new bridge may ease Reading's problems at the expense of making South Oxfordshire's traffic problems much worse. Of these nine Parish Councils that would be most closely affected the majority oppose a new bridge outright. One council wants private cars barred from using any new bridge and one is still considering its position on the matter. Sonning Common Parish Council has taken a more balanced view and supports the new bridge proposal in principle but only if a number of important environmental and infrastructure conditions can be met.

The main concerns of the parish councils who are in opposition to the new bridge is that any such development would channel thousands of cars from Reading across the Oxfordshire county border with the only onward routes being through Shiplake into Henley on the A4155 or through Sonning Common and Rotherfield Peppard on the B481. They feel that the B481 route would, by default, effectively become a new link road from the M40 to the M4. Also, that the situation on the already traffic choked A4155 Reading Road into Henley town centre would become even worse. A more general concern is that any new bridge and associated road improvements would actually encourage more cars and lorries - the M25 cited as an example of what occurs when new traffic routes become available to motorists.

Our own Parish Council has taken the view

that the current traffic situation across the river is not tenable and can only get worse. Even with both Sonning Bridge and Whitchurch Bridge in full operational use traffic congestion and the associated misery is likely to increase over the years. The Parish Council accepts that there is a genuine need for a third bridge. However, this support is not a just a 'knee-jerk' response, but one which has been agreed only after much debate and discussion. The Parish Council is also concerned that the limited timescale provided to give a response to a third bridge proposal has meant that there has been no opportunity to consult widely with residents as it would have wished.

The Parish Council's acceptance that a third bridge is needed comes with the following conditions:

**1. That the road infrastructure can cope with the extra traffic without adverse effects in Sonning Common.**

**2. That South Oxfordshire is provided with formal Green Belt planning guarantees that neither the bridge nor the road route will be used to justify approval of further housing or other development along it.**

**3. That there is no question of Reading using the existence of a third bridge to claim any part of South Oxfordshire.**

If these conditions are not formally agreed and met then Sonning Common Parish

## Below left-right:

Reading Bridge

Road closures through Sonning

Motorists struggle through the flooding

Sonning Bridge

The delayed rebuilding work to Whitchurch Bridge

Caversham Bridge

## Property Maintenance

Plumbing, Electrics, Decorating,  
Woodwork, Roofing, Brickwork, Drains,  
Kitchens and Bathrooms  
All Exterior, Groundworks and Garden work  
**Property Management & Lettings**  
Please call Roger on **07752 759908**  
[colbeckproperty@gmail.com](mailto:colbeckproperty@gmail.com)

## Computer repairs

Specialist in home-user & small business support:  
Virus removal, slow computer, data backup,  
data recovery, booting problems, hardware diagnosis  
Over 10 years experience

0759 898 3292 [jason@millwardit.co.uk](mailto:jason@millwardit.co.uk)

[millwardit.co.uk](http://millwardit.co.uk)

YOUTH ZONE

# Just for kids

## HELLO EVERYONE,

I hope you are enjoying your summer holidays. What have you been doing? Have you been on holiday? Are you looking forward to going back to school? I'd love to hear what you've been doing.  
Please email me at [junior\\_editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:junior_editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org)

ZACK

MINECRAFT

MY TIP

My Minecraft tip today  
is about recharging  
pickaxes.

If you have two of the  
same pickaxes and they  
are both really low on  
charge, put them both  
in a crafting table.

A copy of your pickaxe  
will become fully charged.

DOG

WORDSEARCH

G	E	R	T	E	P	P	I	H	W	W	T
J	N	N	E	N	E	V	B	F	P	V	E
G	F	A	J	L	A	B	R	A	D	O	R
A	O	V	I	Q	I	G	Y	P	N	M	R
K	I	D	X	T	R	E	D	M	F	U	I
J	P	B	L	F	A	K	W	C	S	L	E
P	O	D	E	L	K	M	G	T	D	H	R
C	O	R	X	A	U	K	L	Z	T	C	F
A	D	U	X	P	G	B	S	A	L	O	N
D	L	O	V	A	N	L	N	G	D	X	R
J	E	F	I	Q	X	D	E	P	W	R	S
E	U	S	U	E	O	P	B	O	X	E	R

BEAGLE  
BOXER  
BULLDOG  
DALMATIAN  
LABRADOR  
POODLE  
ROTTWEILER  
TERRIER  
WHIPPET

## BOOK REVIEW

### Football Academy Boys United

by Tom Palmer



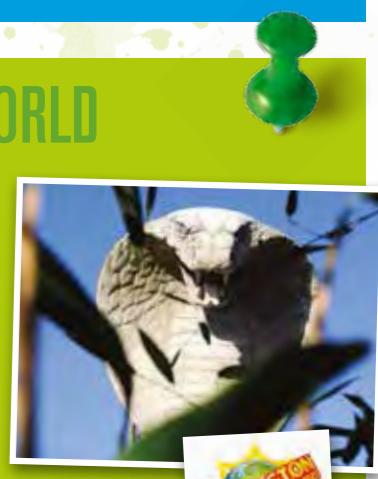
My brother Finn is  
football-mad so he loves  
books about football.

My dad is helping him read this book  
every night and they are really enjoying it.

It's about a boy called Jake who wants to  
become a professional player but he is worried  
he is too small. It's a good book for children  
aged 7 and up. ●

## CHESSINGTON WORLD OF ADVENTURES

I went to Chessington with  
my mum and brother. The  
rides were fantastic.



I especially love the Kobra  
and Dragon's Fury. We went  
on a water ride so we got  
really wet. It was very funny.

I liked going on the Monkey Swinger, which  
swings you through air while water shoots  
up at you like a bullet. Adults can go free with a voucher  
from some cereal packets, so if you get the chance over  
the holidays, I recommend you go. ●

## PET COUNTRY SUPPLIES

### We stock all types of

- ✓ Animal Feed
- ✓ Frozen Meat
- ✓ Farm Feeds

### We Stock Products for

- ✓ Animal Well Being
- ✓ Wild Birds
- ✓ Ponds
- ✓ Farm Animals
- ✓ Domestic Animals
- ✓ Wild life
- ✓ Toys and Beds

We have been trading in the village for over 40 years  
We have old fashioned friendly Service  
We can't stock everything but we can get most things  
for your pet! We deliver free on orders over £25.00  
**COME AND SEE US !!**

You may be surprised  
we now stock



Also We Sell  
MEMBERSHIP for  
SHIPLAKE & BINFIELD  
ANGLING CLUB

**43a Wood Lane**  
Sonning Common RG4 9SJ  
**0118 9723495**  
Email [interestedin@petcountrysupplies.co.uk](mailto:interestedin@petcountrysupplies.co.uk)  
[www.petcountrysupplies.co.uk](http://www.petcountrysupplies.co.uk)  
Open.....Mon to Sat 9.00am to 5.30pm (5pm Sat)  
9am to 4pm Weds  
Closed all day Sunday and Bank Hols

# A MEDICAL TIMEBOMB

By PHILIP COLLINGS

**"A post-antibiotic era – in which common infections and minor injuries can kill – far from being an apocalyptic fantasy, is instead a very real possibility for the 21st century".**

All of us under the age of 70 have lived our lives through an era in which we have all come to assume that bacterial infections can always be dealt with by a course of antibiotics. Those over 70 may, with luck, have that protection until they die. Those coming up behind can have no such confidence.

Before usable Penicillin arrived in quantity, from 1944, those were the risks that everyone faced as bacterial infections could not be treated. That may all be ending soon - think of a world where joint replacement, chemotherapy and reconstructive surgery carry a greater risk of death than of life.

The discovery of antibiotics and their amazing efficacy stimulated a burst of research that had discovered 14 classes of antibiotics by 1968 and five more by 1988. In the quarter century since none at all have been developed and most pharmaceutical companies have actually ceased research into the area. That just might not matter were it not for at least these critical factors:

- Bacteria evolve resistance to antibiotics very quickly, especially if they are exposed to weak doses as happens when a course prescribed is not completed or when, as happens in some parts of the world, the antibiotics are 'cut' or diluted to create a larger number of saleable doses.
- The discovery some years ago by the agricultural industry that adding

antibiotics developed for pure medical and veterinary use into animal feedstuffs not only inhibited the spread of infection in intensive rearing conditions but it also promoted animal growth and thus profit. An important side effect is that antibiotic carrying waste from these animals gets into watercourses and into the human food chain, spreading resistance further.

- Because people often feel better quickly they don't complete the course of medication which helps the bacteria to develop resistance. A sometimes casual approach by the medical profession to prescribing antibiotics when not necessary or appropriate makes this worse.

• The growth in world travel, especially medical tourism, such that an individual can be infected in one part of the world and bring that infection back to their home and family in hours. The resultant of all this is a huge growth in the number of cases of infection by antibiotic resistant bacteria - a problem that already kills as many people in Europe as die in traffic accidents, about 25,000 every year.

The problem is already with us and yet most people assume that major research continues - it does not. This is because, unlike drugs for chronic conditions such as high blood pressure or diabetes which are prescribed for daily use over many months or years, antibiotics are only prescribed in short courses to eliminate specific problems. Therefore not many doses are sold to bring in revenues whilst to bring one new drug to market takes at least ten years and costs hundreds of millions of pounds.

**There is thus no incentive to discover new antibiotics. What should be being done is at least threefold:**

1. **To conserve the treasure of the antibiotics already available by immediately bringing in draconian restrictions on their prescription and use whilst making their use for non-medical purposes, such as in animal feed, a criminal offence;**
2. **To treat the need to discover new antibiotics as the Manhattan Project of this decade by attracting the best brains in the world and unlimited funding into the necessary research and development.**
3. **To find ways to bring new discoveries into medical use in a controlled manner that minimises the risk of misuse - probably by applying a combination of tough regulation and very high pricing.**

**As a parent and grandparent there is nothing that I want more than to be confident that my descendants will have the same chance to lead a life as free of infection and unnecessary pain as I have enjoyed thus far. Knowing what I now know about this incipient disaster I can have no such confidence - must I just despair?**

(excerpted from Henley Standard Letters page 27.6.14)



Children with tuberculosis sleep outside at Springfield House Open Air School in London in 1932



## 100 YEARS OF THE NATION'S HEALTH

By DIANA PEARMAN

As the nation commemorates the outbreak of WW1 – a look at how health has changed over the century, 1914 to 2014.

When war broke out in August 1914 there was a massive recruitment campaign for men to join the forces. For the first time, records were made which showed how many were unfit for service, they were so unhealthy. The average working week for labourers was 54 hours, sixty per cent of wages went on food and 10 per cent of people lived below subsistence level. Many innovations were occurring at the beginning of the last century and some of it in the health arena. Florence Nightingale had instituted reforms which had improved the spread of infection in hospitals; the first sewage plant was opened in Manchester and the vaccinations given to the troops going overseas virtually eliminated typhoid.

Improvements in Public Health since 1914 have been in sanitation, nutrition and antibiotics, each having a massive impact. The reduction in infant mortality has been hugely significant, as has the control of Tuberculosis.

What a change has taken place over this time and one wonders what a worker from 1914 would have made of the growth in cosmetic surgery, of the rampant levels of obesity and the number of elderly people who live alone and are lonely?

A century from now human health is likely to be further transformed. Cancer will be treated with an individualised rather than a generalised approach. Degenerative diseases will be reversed by 'switching on' those genes that have gone 'off'. Re-engineered viruses are being pumped into bodies to target illness. Cures for cancer, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease are on the horizon.

The greatest threat to us all now is the decline in the effectiveness of antibiotics. ●

### 100 years in stats

**1914 2014**

**UK population**

43 million 63.2 million

**Average height (male)**

166cms (5ft 5 ins) 177cms (5ft 10ins)

**Children (per family)**

2.8 1.96

**Average life expectancy**

52 (male),  
55 (female) 90.7 (male),  
94.0 (female)

**Chance of living to 100 (at birth)**

0.3% (male),  
1.2% (female) 32.9% (male),  
39.9% (female)

**Chance of dying before 60**

63% 12%

**Infant mortality per thousand**

130 4

**Most likely cause of death**

Infectious, perinatal  
and respiratory diseases Cancer and  
heart disease

**Deaths from TB**

39,000 261

**Murders (per million)**

8.2 3.1

**Common medicines**

Owbridge's lung tonic,  
Curic wafers,  
Pistola gout powders Simvastatin,  
Levothyroxine  
sodium, Aspirin

Printed by kind permission of Benenden Health

"We turn feelings into flowers"



42 Wood Lane • Sonning Common • RG4 9SL  
0118 972 1240 0777 179 0916

[www.brambles-sonning-common.co.uk](http://www.brambles-sonning-common.co.uk)

## Fed up with lime scale?

*A Water Softener  
would be your solution*

Compass Water Softeners

SALT, SALES, SERVICE, INSTALLATION

0118 972 3773 0118 941 0869 0796 700 9838

[www.compasswatersofteners.co.uk](http://www.compasswatersofteners.co.uk)

Email: [martin@compasswatersofteners.co.uk](mailto:martin@compasswatersofteners.co.uk)

## Thinking of moving?



For a free valuation of your property please  
contact Richard Beville or Adrian Davies

**Beville**  
ESTATE AGENCY

28 Peppard Road, Sonning Common, S.Oxon, RG4 9SU  
[info@beville.co.uk](mailto:info@beville.co.uk) | [www.beville.co.uk](http://www.beville.co.uk) | 0118 924 2526

**TradeMark**  
TM

**WINDOWS - DOORS - CONSERVATORIES  
FASCIA - SOFFITS - GUTTERING - CLADDING  
WINDOW REPAIRS - MISTY GLASS**

**Use your Local Installer with 30  
years experience  
For a FREE quotation  
Call Mike Dockree on  
0118 972 4376 or 07785928190**

**All window, door & conservatory  
installations carry a 10 year guarantee  
and the finished product is  
independently inspected with  
all certificates**

**WEE-COT SEATING**  
Upholstery, Loose Covers,  
Replacement Cushions, Chair Caning,  
French Polishing & Furniture Repairs  
LIZANNE SMITH Tel: 0118 972 4560

## Studio One

Classic Pilates, Hatha and Kabinga Yoga,  
StudioBarre and StudioStretch

Studio One, Hayden Farm, Nuffield,  
[info@studioone.uk.com](mailto:info@studioone.uk.com), [www.studioone.uk.com](http://www.studioone.uk.com)

## SPRUCE MAINTENANCE SERVICE

For all your property maintenance requirements:

- ♦Decorating - inside and out
- ♦Paper Hanging
- ♦Carpentry - including door easing & hanging
- ♦Wall & Floor Tiling & Silicone Renewal
- ♦Plumbing - leaking taps etc.
- ♦Patio's, Landscaping & Garden Design
- ♦Hedge Cutting & Planting

**Pass on your TO DO list**

**ROB SMITH Tel: 0118 972 4560**

**wood lane dentistry**



Vik Chugani BDS MFDS RCSEdin MSc

Richard McQuillan BDS

- Your local family friendly practice
- Routine general dentistry
- Affordable dental plans with Denplan
- Children seen on the NHS
- Tooth whitening
- Cosmetic dentistry and Implants
- Ample free parking

Now taking on new patients  
Saturday and evening appointments available  
**HAPPY HEALTHY SMILES ...**

Wood Lane Sonning Common Reading Berkshire RG4 9SJ  
[www.woodlanedentistry.co.uk](http://www.woodlanedentistry.co.uk) Telephone 0118 9722626



Set in an idyllic village location, our  
small, friendly pre-school creates a  
very special environment for children  
guided by a team of highly qualified,  
caring staff. Please contact us for details.  
[registrar@keps.co.uk](mailto:registrar@keps.co.uk)



With excellent links to  
Kidmore End Primary School  
and only 5 minutes from  
Caversham, Sonning Common,  
Peppard and Emmer Green.



Kidmore End Pre-School, Parish Room  
Wood Lane, Kidmore End, Reading RG4 9BB  
Registered Charity Number 104 6030  
[www.KidmoreEndPreSchool.co.uk](http://www.KidmoreEndPreSchool.co.uk)

To Caversham  
Heights  
Kidmore End  
Pre-school  
Primary  
School  
To Emmer  
Green  
To Sonning  
Common

**HELPLINE LANDSCAPE SERVICES**

Landscaping - Design, Construction, Garden make over.  
Groundwork - Clearance, Footings, Drainage, Grading.  
Timber work - Gateways, Decking, Arches, Pergola, Gazebo.  
Fencing - Panel, Close Board, Wire mesh, Stock fence.  
Gardening - Mowing, Weeding, Pruning, Clearance.  
Tree work - Felling, Lopping, Pruning, Clearance.  
Driveways - Gravel, Paved, Brick, Concrete.  
Ponds - Water features, Ponds, Rills.  
Patios - Slab, Stone, Pavers, Brick.  
Log's for sale - Cut and split to size.

Based in Sonning Common  
Tel / Fax: 0118 9721342  
Email: [chriscolbeck@btinternet.com](mailto:chriscolbeck@btinternet.com)

*Autumn Leaf*

**A.B.WALKER**  
& SON LIMITED  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS EST. 1826



**SELECTED  
Independent  
FUNERAL HOMES®**

Arranging a funeral can be stressful and  
demanding. Five generations serving  
Sonning Common; we believe we will  
make a difference.

For 24 hour assistance:

Henley-on-Thames 01491 413434

Caversham 0118 947 7007

Reading 0118 957 3650

Also at Thatcham, Bracknell and Wokingham

For flowers, donations and further information:  
[www.abwalker.co.uk](http://www.abwalker.co.uk)





## BRITAIN IN BLOOM: JUDGEMENT DAY!

Following months of painstaking preparation, judgement day dawned bright and fair for Sonning Common's entry into the Britain in Bloom competition.

The two judges - Peter Thompson and Brian Burton - toured Sonning Common in Bubbles, the FISH bus, courtesy of volunteer driver Karen Guy. Their hosts were Chrissie Phillips-Tilbury, Jill Greenwood and Stan Rust, from The Village Gardeners.

The tour took in recent housing development, Gardeners' Copse, at the Peppard Road/Kennylands Road triangle, where The Village Gardeners have planted a flower-bed.

Then it was onto the Millennium Green and Sonning Common Primary School to show off combined community gardening efforts - the hallmark of Sonning Common's competition entry.



The competition results will be announced in Henley in September.

Co-founder of The Village Gardeners, Chrissie Phillips-Tilbury, thanked all of the residents and businesses who had supported the gardening effort for Britain in Bloom. "We have done everything we can. Now we'll have to wait and see what happens," she said. ●



## Happy Hounds Dog Grooming Parlour

Caring & Professional Groomer  
Clipping, Bathing, Handstripping,  
Nails & much more

Mobile and pick-up service available  
Call Karen on 07799 114061



## Tai Chi and Qigong Classes

Would you like to feel more relaxed, healthier in mind, body and spirit?  
Do you need to improve your balance, coordination or strength?  
Want to improve your overall sense of wellbeing?

Ideal for all ages and any fitness level

Tuesday Evenings 19:00 - 20:30 in Sonning Common Village Hall  
Call Karen on 07867 954 786 or see [www.karenpounds.co.uk](http://www.karenpounds.co.uk)

Tuesdays Mornings (term-time only) 09:30 - 10:30 in Kidmore End War Memorial Hall  
Call Debbie on 07802 347 943 or see [www.debbiepage.org](http://www.debbiepage.org)



# TOM FORT Hedge & wall ...



**My mother was a woman of strong views forcibly expressed, which may (or may not) surprise those of you who know me. After buying our house in Wood Lane, we brought her over to cast a critical eye over the wilderness that was the garden, gardening being her chief passion in life.**

Just about the first thing she said, pointing at the enormous hedges running the length of both sides was: "You should get rid of those." I pointed out that following her advice would require strafing with napalm, or - at the very least - an army of chainsaw-wielders and stump-removers. But she

stuck to her guns. "Dreadful stuff, laurel," she said scornfully.

She was right. We have laurel on all sides and I have grown to hate it. I hate the bright shiny greenness of those waxy leaves. I hate the fact that the colour and texture do not vary with the seasons. I hate the way it grows and grows and keeps on growing.

The biggest hedge is around fifty yards long, ten feet high and about eight feet thick. It casts a tall shadow, sucks the ground dry and is an absolute swine to cut. Even with the longest trimmer known to mankind I cannot reach the far

side of the top, so the damn thing never looks better than a mess.

What I would really like is a wall - one of those mellow old, slightly crumbly walls with bits of flint here and there, with succulent apricots and peaches against it. Failing that, either a fence (we've now got one opposite the monster hedge, with fan-trained plums creeping up it), or a sensible mixed hedge, hawthorn and blackthorn and wild cherry plum and wild rose, maybe some hazel and elm. Or a beech hedge. Beech is fine.

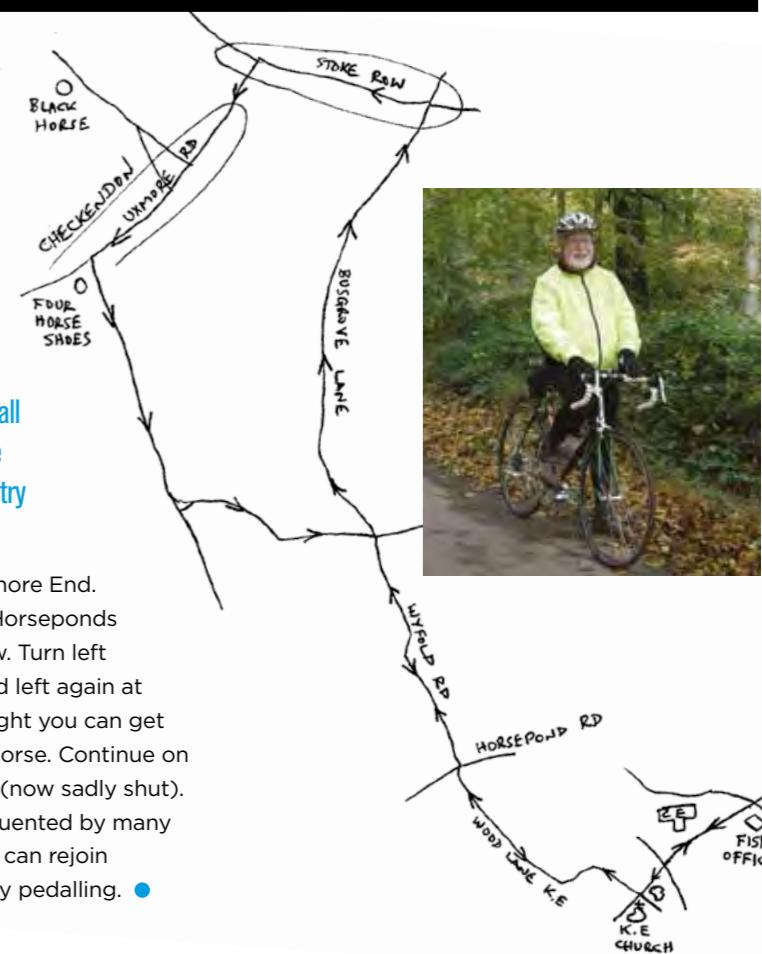
Anything but the accursed laurel. ●

## A RIDE THROUGH THE WOODS

This ride is 11 miles, will take an hour or more and is ideal if you haven't cycled for a while. You travel through deep forest much of the way - good on a hot day, with only one or two small hills. You won't see many cars but sometimes deer. Stop at the Maharaja's Well for your water or drop into the Black Horse to try the excellent real ale drawn from the barrel the old way.

Leave the village by the FISH office heading towards Kidmore End. Then turn right and cycle North via Wood Lane crossing Horseponds Road into Wyfold Road, then Busgrove Lane to Stoke Row. Turn left through the village just past the small Industrial Estate and left again at Uxmore Road towards Checkendon. If you take the first right you can get to Checkendon's totally unspoilt friendly pub, The Black Horse. Continue on through Checkendon turning left at The Four Horseshoes (now sadly shut). Bear left at Hook End Manor (now a recording studio frequented by many famous artists) and continue to the crossroads where you can rejoin and retrace your route home through Kidmore End. Happy pedalling. ●

Alan Goswell



## ALL MAKES SERVICING

Caring for all your motoring needs for over 50 years!



- ✓ BOSCH Diagnostics
- ✓ Service & Repair
- ✓ Air Conditioning Service & Re-Gas
- ✓ ATA Highly Qualified Technicians
- ✓ Free Collection & Delivery
- ✓ Courtesy Cars Available

**Sonning Common Vauxhall**  
**0118 972 2021**

Peppard Road, Sonning Common, Reading RG4 9SU

### CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE WINNER

Service Open: Mon-Fri 8am - 6pm • Sat 8.30am - 12.30pm • Sun CLOSED  
[www.sonningcommonvauxhall.com](http://www.sonningcommonvauxhall.com)



## What's your property worth?

We have buyers and tenants eagerly seeking property to **buy** or **rent**, so invite us around for your **FREE** market appraisal.

Contact us at **Davis Tate** today  
on **0118 972 4242** or email [sonning@davistate.com](mailto:sonning@davistate.com)

If you have instructed another agent on a sole agency and/or sole selling rights basis, the terms of those instructions must be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two commissions. However, asking us to view is FREE.



Julie Norman **MANAGER**



Jo Bailey **SALES AND LETTINGS NEGOTIATOR**

 **davis tate**

**ALL PROPERTY MATTERS**

## TEXTUREPLUS

### Free Estimates

Interior & Exterior Decorating  
Artexing & Coving / Solving Artex Problems  
Floor & Wall Tiling / Wallpaper Hanging / Plastering  
Kitchens / Bathrooms / Roof & Guttering Maintenance  
Carpentry - Doors + Architraves + Skirting

### COMPLETE HOME IMPROVEMENTS

(Quality Comes As Standard)  
30 Years Experience / NHBC Awarded / PPL Insured  
Insurance Work Undertaken

Tel: 0118 972 1442 or Mobile: 07880 542363  
Based in Sonning Common

### PODIATRY/CHIROPODY CLINIC

Sonning Common  
For enquiries & appointments call  
**Heidi Snookes-Owen**  
B.Sc., D.Pod.M., M.Ch.S.  
HCPG REGISTERED  
**0118 972 4742**

**PILATES ABC, HENLEY.**  
CLASSES: SONNING COMMON, HENLEY  
& HURLEY. BEGINNERS WELCOME  
**07521 699265** [alyth@pilatesabc.co.uk](mailto:alyth@pilatesabc.co.uk)  
[www.pilatesabc.co.uk](http://www.pilatesabc.co.uk)

DID YOU KNOW?

# Village travels



Whether you feel like jetting off to the Amalfi Coast, taking a leisurely cruise or the Theatre trip, then you need look no further. Local resident Andrea Golder has some wonderful trips lined up for us in the coming months. You may have seen the 'Village Travels' folders in the CCA Charity shop, Sonning Common Heath Centre, the library and also in the Wood Lane Dentistry. Here is a sample for you.

#### 27 September 2014 - 'Wild Tracks' Experience

Enjoy a fabulous day out to the West Midlands Safari Park followed by a ride on a steam train along the Severn Valley Railway. We will have a guided tour round the Safari Park with hopefully a sight of the new baby elephant 'Sutton' born earlier this year! After the safari, there will time to look around the other exhibits and animal shows before we take our steam train ride along the Severn Valley to Bridgnorth. Adults: £39. Children: 4 -15 £34. Under 4's go free (but no more than 2 free places per paying adult please). Local pick-ups available. **BOOK NOW**

#### 13 December 2014 - Matinee performance of Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas'

Running for 8 weeks only at the Dominion theatre, London, starring Aled Jones, Tom Chambers and Wendi Peters. The price of £75 per person includes executive coach travel, best available stalls seats (normally between £68-£75 each), plus a 2 course lunch at 'The Landseer British Kitchen' restaurant in Great Russell Street, 3 minutes' walk from the theatre. Songs

**April 2015 Dubrovnik. £389 based on 2 sharing**

3 nights 4 days half board at a 4\* hotel just across the bay from the historic ramparts of Dubrovnik. Price includes flights and foreign transfers.

**29 August - 1 September 2015**

3 nights mini cruise to Guernsey and Honfleur aboard Fred Olsen's flag ship liner the 'Balmoral'. Price includes all food, amenities and entertainment. Drinks packages and additional excursions available. Price from £299 (pre brochure price shortly to be increased). Free parking available at the berth, but subsidised coach travel may be available. ●

For further information, posters and/or booking forms, contact Andrea on 0118 9722995 or e-mail [amgolder@hotmail.com](mailto:amgolder@hotmail.com)  
**Early booking essential to be assured of a place.**



#### March 2015 - Amalfi Coast. £299 pp based on 2 sharing

3 nights 4 days B&B. Price includes flights, foreign transfers and a full day's tour of the Amalfi coast.



# Parish news

## SKATEPARK WORK COULD START IN THE AUTUMN

**The revamped designs for Sonning Common Skatepark were given a big thumbs-up by young people at Club SC recently.**

Richard Bartlett, from Wheelscape, the skatepark supplier, visited the village's youth club last month to share the new designs and get feedback from the park's prospective users.

Some of the youngsters, who saw the new designs, had been involved with earlier consultations on the skatepark. Alex Jolly, 16, said: "This park is a mixture of everything that we asked for."

Richard, from Wheelscape, said: "What we have designed is a park to suit all ages and abilities. It will be suitable for

skateboards, scooters, BMX bikes, roller blades and wheelchairs."

The £100,000 skatepark, measuring 45m by 28m, will be built in the bottom corner of Bishopswood Playing Fields. The majority of the funding has come from grants and donations, and, if all goes according to plan, construction could begin as early as this autumn.

Douglas Kedge, chairman of Sonning Common Parish Council, said: "There was an attempt to start collecting money for a skatepark many years ago and it fell through. Now, under the leadership of the Skatepark Working Party, with support from the parish council, it is finally going to happen."



Around £15,000 is still needed to reach the fundraising target for the skatepark. If you can help please contact: Ros Varnes, Deputy Clerk, Sonning Common Parish Council. Phone: 0118 972 3616. Email: [deputyclerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## PARISH BOUNDARY REVIEW

**From Douglas Kedge, Chairman of Sonning Common Parish Council**

**Readers may have seen a full page open letter in the Henley Standard on Friday 4 July, taken out by the parish council in protest against South Oxfordshire District Council's (SODC's) boundary review proposals.**

District councillors made their decision on the outcome of the boundary review for Sonning Common at a full council meeting on 17 July (after this magazine had gone to print).

And as I write this, I don't know what they decided but I want to explain to you why the parish council decided to publish the open letter to district councillors.

### BACKGROUND

The Government recommends that local authorities conduct a review of their parish boundaries – the boundaries for civic administration – every 15 years.

The main purposes of these reviews are to ensure that parish boundaries are geographically logical; effectively separate communities; and allow for

proper local representation.

The parish council put forward a proposal to SODC for a fair, logical and democratic boundary for Sonning Common that fully met the review criteria. It advocated that the village boundary with Rotherfield Peppard must change to reflect the village as it is now by incorporating the continuous built up area of the Sonning Common settlement.

However, SODC's boundary review working group proposed that the boundary between the two villages should not change, despite admitting that this was "unsatisfactory".

The parish council considered this proposal of 'no change' as flawed and illogical.

We demanded that the boundary should change because it did not properly separate the two villages; Sonning Common had to take its neighbour's share of new housing – 30 of the 138 new homes that have to be built by 2027; and we felt it fair that

Rotherfield Peppard residents, in our settlement area, should be incorporated into the parish, make an appropriate contribution and be represented by the parish council.

### THE ACTION TAKEN

We decided to write an open letter to SODC councillors to encourage them to change their minds and re-draw the boundary with Rotherfield Peppard.

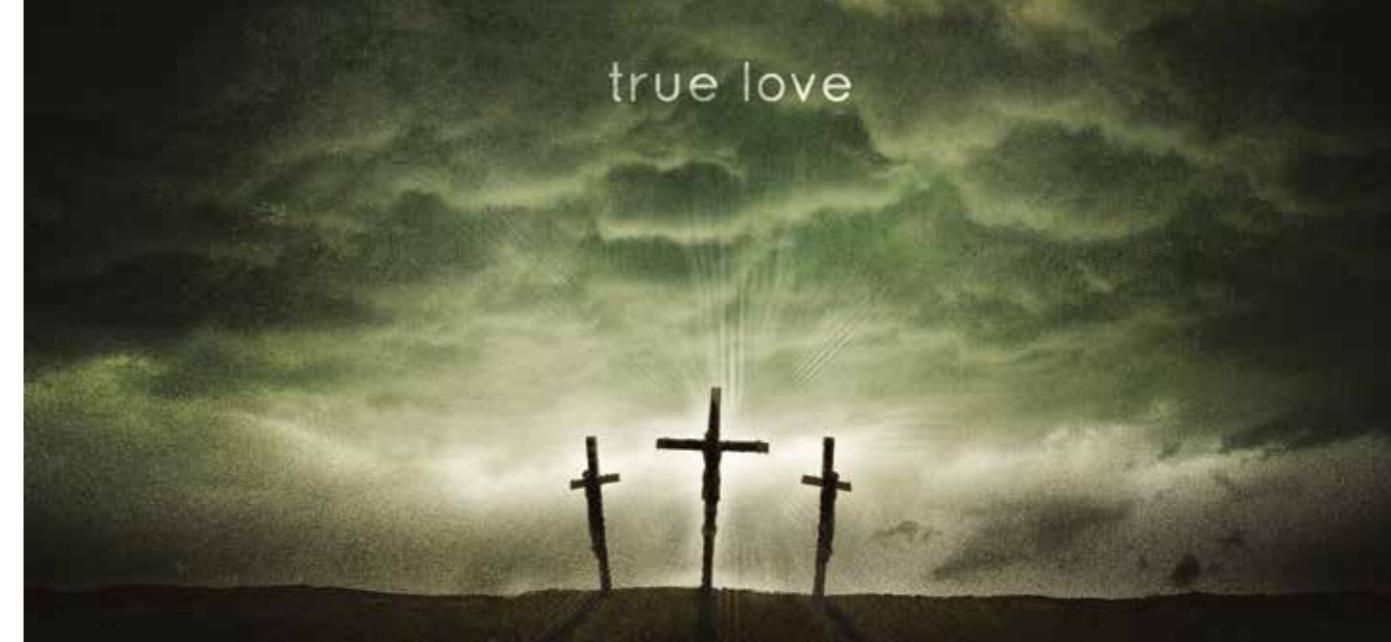
This was unprecedented action for the parish council. However, in the absence of an appeals process for the review and no support from our two district councillors - Paul Harrison and Alan Rooke - we felt we had little option.

We believe we are representing our residents' interests. We know from the feedback we have received that many of our residents want a new parish boundary. Indeed, more than half the cost of publishing the open letter to councillors in the Henley Standard was contributed by residents.

**Thank you for your continued support.**

# Church news

true love



## TINY ISRAEL: A REFLECTION ON LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL

**When I was younger, I used to find it intensely irritating to read spiritual authors, gurus or life coaches who advised me not to worry and fret about being famous, leaving a mark or becoming a star! My annoyance did not come from nursing a secret desire for fame or notoriety. It was more a case of, "Well, it's alright for them to tell us not to worry about these things, since they have already them in abundance!"**

Have you ever noticed how it is often the admired and respected – Mother Theresa, John Paul II, Martin Luther King – who tell us not to worry about admiration and respect?

I understand, therefore, that it could seem all too easy for a man who has spent 12 years of his life in the Eternal City of Rome and the last six years in this nation's capital, to advise people to accept the contours of their concrete existence. But as a Christian, I look to Jesus of Nazareth for the meaning of

my own and all human existence. His life tells me that one doesn't have to have all the trappings in order to live a life full of vibrancy and significance and having just returned from a study tour of Jerusalem, the meaningfulness of our ordinary, humdrum lives resurfaced.

Compared with other states around the world, Israel is tiny – about the same size as Wales. Apart from three years at the beginning of his life, when he was an exile in Egypt, Jesus of Nazareth never crossed the borders of his homeland. And yet, it is within such narrow geographical confines, within such a tiny, insignificant backwater, that Christians believe the most meaningful and intensely lived human life unfolded.

That life taught us that real living is about giving life to others. A life lived with real (not fake) panache, lived according to the mind of God, is a life given away to others. The spiritual physics of Christianity state that the more you grasp at life, the more you lose its secret and remain unhappy; the more you realise that your life is not

about you and so spend your life on others, the more happy you will be.

The only mark worth leaving behind us is the mark that God requires – a life marked by love. As Saint John of the Cross put it: in the evening of our life, we will be judged on love. ●

**Rev Dr Paul Rowan, Priest-in-charge, Saint Michael's RC Church, Sonning Common**

### Christ the King THIRD THURSDAY DROP IN

Tea, biscuits and conversation paperback book exchange library 2.30pm until 4.00pm

#### HELP NEEDED PLEASE:

- Transport
- Meeting and Greeting
- Setting up
- Serving tea, coffee and biscuits

We welcome anyone from the local community  
Jenny MacGregor 0018 947 2855  
[bramble2@talktalk.net](mailto:bramble2@talktalk.net)

# August 2014

FRIDAY 1	Peppard Group - Village Hall	10am
SUNDAY 10	Felt-makers get together. Bring lunch and a project to work on - Village Hall	10am - 4pm
THURSDAY 21	FISH - Pub lunch	11.30am
THURSDAY 28	FISH - Henley Farmers' Market	

# September 2014

WEDNESDAY 3	Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute. Open to all. Raising funds for SC Village Hall - Village Hall	10.30am - 12noon
THURSDAY 4	Antique & Collectable Fair - Caversham Heath Golf Club	8.30am - 4pm
FRIDAY 5	5th Annual Themed Lunch - Italy. 3 courses with wine £15. Supporting local charities - Village Hall	12.30 for 1 pm
FRIDAY 5	Chiltern Players present 'An Evening for Jeni' - a night of entertainment to celebrate the life of former Players' chairman Jenifer Titchener who died in April. Free to all, with donations to the RNLI, Jeni's favourite charity - Peppard Memorial Hall	8pm
SATURDAY 6	Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society - Autumn Show. All welcome. Free admission - Chiltern Edge School	2.30pm - 4.30pm
MONDAY 8	Royal British Legions Women's Section - Cream Tea. £3 a head - Batten House	2pm - 3.30pm
FRIDAY 12	Nottakwire practice - Village Hall	9.45am - 11.30am
SATURDAY 13	Community Christian Action (CCA Shop) - Autumn Fayre - Village Hall	9am - 12.30pm
MONDAY 15	Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall	8pm
TUESDAY 16	Peppard Bowls Club AGM - Peppard Memorial Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
THURSDAY 18	FISH - Pub lunch - 11.30am	
THURSDAY 18	Sonning Common Women's Institute - Keep Fit led by Jeannette Hughes. Visitors welcome - Village Hall	7.30pm
FRIDAY 19	Notts group - Village Hall	9.30am - 12.30pm
SATURDAY 20	Greys Court Big Harvest - Greys Court	10am - 5pm
SUNDAY 21	Greys Court Big Harvest - Greys Court	10am - 5pm
THURSDAY 25	FISH - Henley Farmers' Market	7.30pm
THURSDAY 25	Sonning Common Society AGM. All welcome, refreshments included - Sonning Common Library	
FRIDAY 26	Nottakwire practice - Village Hall	9.45am - 11.30am
SUNDAY 28	Felt-makers get together. Bring lunch and a project to work on - Village Hall	10am - 4pm

FISH runs regular shopping trips to Tesco in Henley on Monday mornings and to Henley and Reading town centres. For more information and to book call 0118 972 3986. ●




**Talullah**  
nails

Talullah Nails specialising in Bio Sculpture Gel  
A long lasting & chip-proof nail treatment!  
Perfect for special occasions...  
or just everyday chic!

Christine Ullah - Nail Technician  
T: 01491 682982 M: 07791 256853  
Northam House, Main Street, Stoke Row, RG9 5QR  
chris@talullahnails.co.uk [www.facebook.com/TalullahNails](http://www.facebook.com/TalullahNails)

**Computer Problems?**

*Free quote, no fix no fee, no call out charge*

Over 200 happy customers in Sonning Common.



Milo and Michael Harper

**Milo Technical Support**  
22 Sedgewell Road

**0118 972 4905**

**HENLEY GLAZING AND WINDOW CENTRE LIMITED**  
Incorporating



**PEMBROKE GLASS**  
01491 629901  
Glass Supply, Glazing Service,  
Mirrors, Shelves, Tabletops,  
Sealed Units, Lead Lights,  
Locks, Secondary Glazing,  
Shower Screens

Workshop: Unit 12, Manor Farm, Peppard Common, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2JL  
Fax: 01491 629904 Email: [henleyglazingwindow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:henleyglazingwindow@yahoo.co.uk)



**0118 9419210**  
Suppliers and Installers of:  
UPVC, Aluminium and  
Timber Windows  
Doors and Conservatories  
Fascias, Soffits and Guttering



**Come & Experience authentic  
Tandoori & Bengali Cuisine**

**TANDOORI Connaisseur**

**21 Wood Lane  
Sonning Common  
0118 972 3104 / 972 1054**

**★ Fully Air-Conditioned**  
**★ Large Groups Catered For**  
**★ Open 7 Days a Week**

**TAKE-AWAY MENU**  
We Guarantee Prompt Service on All Orders

**S J HINTON**  
**Carpenter & Joiner**

Wide range of high-quality carpentry services delivered by skilled craftsman

Built-In Wardrobes, Cupboards, Shelving, Kitchen Fitting, Doors, Floors, Windows, Stairs, Roof Construction.

**Telephone Steve on 0118 972 3602**  
**or 07887 653866**

**Sonning Common Beauty**

12 Newfield Road Telephone 0118 972 3059  
[www.sonningcommonbeauty.co.uk](http://www.sonningcommonbeauty.co.uk)

• MANICURE • PEDICURE • ORGANIC FACIALS  
• MD FORMULATIONS GLYCOLIC PEELS  
• WAXING • LASH AND BROW TREATMENTS  
• SPRAY TANNING • MAKE-UP • MASSAGE  
• BRIDAL HOLIDAY AND MUM-TO-BE PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Gift Vouchers Available  
Some reduced price treatments available each week please ring to check availability



Sonning Common Health Centre  
Wood Lane, Sonning Common,  
Reading, RG4 9SW

- Back & Neck pain
- Muscle / Joint Strains
- Ligament Sprain
- Sports Injuries
- Whiplash Injuries
- Shoulder Injuries
- Post-Operative Rehabilitation
- Pre / Post Natal Exercise
- Respiratory Conditions
- Lower Limb & Foot Problems

- Appointments available every day
- Pilates classes throughout the week

T: 01189 722 745

E: info@functionalphysio.co.uk

Jo Pereira MCSP  
Catherine Matthews MCSP  
Chartered Physiotherapists

[www.functionalphysio.co.uk](http://www.functionalphysio.co.uk)

The team at Functional Physio are Chartered Physiotherapists registered with the Health Professions Council and are recognised by all major insurance companies, including Bupa and Axa PPP.



High quality education and child care under the Early years foundation stage (EYFS) for children

4 months to 5 years

- Good OFSTED report
- Pre-school sessions available
- Open all year, Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm
- Flexible hours
- Early years education grants available
- Curriculum includes French, Music & Movement and Thames Valley Gym
- Small friendly and personal care in Sonning Common

For further information, please ask for the manager on 0118 972 4783, or visit our website.

[www.alphabedaynurseries.com](http://www.alphabedaynurseries.com)

emails: [info@alphabedaynurseries.com](mailto:info@alphabedaynurseries.com)



**noble intentions**  
landscape garden design

Professional advice, design & planting for your garden.



Call Gail Noble on 0118 972 3214  
[www.noble-intentions.com](http://www.noble-intentions.com)



# Doggy Dips

Doggy Wellbeing Centre



Hydrotherapy and Physiotherapy  
Doggy Day Care and Socialisation  
On Site Grooming inc. Nail Trimming  
Dog Walking Services

Health, Rehabilitation, Fitness and Fun!

**0118 972 4849**



Unit 1 Kidby's Yard • 28 Kennylands Road • Sonning Common • Reading • RG4 9JT  
[www.doggydips.co.uk](http://www.doggydips.co.uk) • [info@doggydips.co.uk](mailto:info@doggydips.co.uk)

Fed Up With Call Centres

**B a r r s   I n s u r a n c e**

**Mark & Helen Richards**  
Your Local Insurance Brokers  
For The Unusual & The Usual  
Let Us Take Care Of Your Insurance

- House & Contents • Business • Liabilities
- Travel • Landlords • Professional Indemnity
- Horse • Shops • Sickness / Accident
- Commercial / Unusual Vehicle

If It's Not Listed We Still Can Help  
All Types Of Insurance Enquiries Welcome

**0118 924 2603**

mail: [info@barrs-insurances.co.uk](mailto:info@barrs-insurances.co.uk)

**www.barrs-insurance.co.uk**

Unit 2, Kidby's Yard, Kennylands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9JT  
Authorised and Regulated by FCA

Ridiculously Easy Accounting, Guaranteed!

Specialising in helping Start-Ups and Small Businesses, we offer a full range of accounting and tax services by email and post. Need accounts and tax to satisfy HMRC? Want to outsource all your accounting to free up time? We make your life simpler, with performance guarantees ensuring excellent service or your money back.

Request a free quote online now at  
[www.blueredaccountants.co.uk](http://www.blueredaccountants.co.uk)

